

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*Reversed on B*

1-56. (Canceled)

Sustained on Spalding

57. (Currently amended) A boot, comprising:

a forward lean system, comprising:

medial and lateral side cable members on the boot, wherein the cable members are attached to the forward portion of the boot at only one general position thereon; and

a tension adjustment member connected to the cable members for altering the length of said cable members, said length being the length between the tension adjustment member at the rear of the boot and the one general position at the forward portion of the boot to provide more or less forward lean of the boot relative to a vertical line.

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58. (Previously presented) A boot according to Claim 57, wherein forward portions of said medial and lateral side cables attach to a forward portion of the boot on a location at a single side of the boot.

59. (Previously presented) A boot according to Claim 58, wherein said location is on a medial side of the boot.

60. (Previously presented) A boot according to Claim 57, wherein said tension adjustment member comprises an engaging arm pivotally attached to a rear portion of the boot.

61. (Previously presented) A boot according to Claim 60, wherein said arm includes plural engaging members for selective engagement of said cables to lengthen or shorten the effective length of the cables.

62. (Withdrawn) A boot according to Claim 60, wherein said plural engaging members comprise slots and wherein said cables carry keeper members adapted to fit in one of said slots.

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63. (Withdrawn) A boot according to Claim 60, wherein said tension arm comprises an adjustable threaded member connected to said cables, wherein adjustment of said threaded member alters the effective length of said cables for altering the forward lean of the boot.

64. (Withdrawn) A boot according to Claim 63, wherein said adjustable threaded member is in threaded engagement with a pulley and adjustment of said threaded member alters the position of said pulley, said pulley receiving said cables thereon, thereby altering the effective length of said cables.

65. (Previously presented) A boot, comprising:

a forward lean system, comprising:

medial and lateral side cable members on the boot, wherein said medial and lateral side cable members attach to a front portion of the boot at only one general position thereon.

66. (Withdrawn) A boot according to Claim 65, wherein said region comprises first and second locations that are within 2 inches of each other.

67. (Withdrawn) A boot according to Claim 65, wherein said region comprises first and second locations that are within 1 inch of each other.

68. (Previously presented) A boot according to Claim 65, wherein said portion comprises first and second locations to which the medial and lateral side cable members attach, wherein said locations are substantially adjacent each other.

69. (Previously presented) A boot according to Claim 65, wherein said portion comprises a substantially single position.

70. (Withdrawn) A boot according to Claim 69, wherein said single position comprises a pulley member attached to a front portion of the boot.

71. (Withdrawn) A boot according to Claim 70, further comprising means for adjusting the relative position of said pulley member on the front portion of the boot.

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72. (Previously presented) A boot according to Claim 65, wherein said medial and lateral side cable members comprise portions of a continuous cable and wherein said cable loops back from the medial side to the lateral side of the boot around a loop back member at a front portion of the boot.

73. (Withdrawn) A boot according to Claim 65, further comprising means for altering the location of said single position on the front of said boot.

74. (Withdrawn) A snowboard boot comprising:
a shell member defining at least a portion of the snowboard boot; and
an ankle strap adapted to substantially surround and secure a wearer's ankle region, wherein said ankle strap is secured to said shell member of the snowboard boot.

75. (Withdrawn) A snowboard boot according to Claim 74, wherein said ankle strap further comprises a lace receiving portion for receiving a lace of the boot therethrough, for securing said ankle strap to the snowboard boot.

76. (Withdrawn) A boot according to Claim 65, further comprising a calf plate pivotally attached to the highback portion.

77. (Withdrawn) A boot according to Claim 76, wherein the calf plate includes reinforcing ribs.

78. (Withdrawn) A boot according to Claim 76, wherein the highback portion includes a first and second member pivotally connected to each other.

79. (Withdrawn) A boot according to Claim 76, wherein the highback portion is laterally and medially adjustable.

80. (Withdrawn) A boot according to Claim 79, wherein the highback portion includes fasteners received within slots to allow lateral and medial movement.

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81. (Withdrawn) A snowboard boot according to Claim 74, further comprising an upper shell portion connected to a lower shell portion, wherein the upper shell portion can flex medially and laterally.

82. (Withdrawn) A snowboard boot according to Claim 81, wherein the upper shell portion is pivotally connected to the lower shell portion.

83. (Withdrawn) A snowboard boot according to Claim 81, wherein the upper shell portion is received in a lateral slot in the lower shell portion.

84-96. (Canceled)

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97. (Previously presented) A boot, comprising:

a forward lean system having a single general area on the boot, wherein the area is attached to forward portions of medial and lateral cable portions coming from respective rear upper opposite sides of the boot, said single general area located at a lower front location on the boot.

98. (Previously presented) The boot of Claim 97, wherein the single general area is located at either the lateral or medial side of the boot.

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99. (Previously presented) A snowboard boot, comprising:

a forward lean system, comprising:

a first guide located on a side of the boot on an upper, rear portion of the boot;

a second guide located on the same side as the first guide on a lower, front portion of the boot;

a third guide located on the side opposite of the first guide on an upper, rear portion of the boot;

a first cable portion extending from the first guide to the second guide; and

a second cable portion extending from the second guide to the third guide.

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100. (Previously presented) A step-in snowboard boot, comprising:
a forward lean system, comprising:
 a first guide located on a side of the boot on an upper, rear portion of the boot;
 a second guide located on the same side as the first guide on a lower, front portion of the boot;
 a third guide located on the side opposite of the first guide on an upper, rear portion of the boot; and
 a cable portion that extends from the first guide to the second guide and extends from the second guide to the third guide.

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101. (Previously presented) A step-in snowboard boot, comprising:
a forward lean system, comprising:
 a tension adjustment member at the rear of the boot;
 a first guide located on a side of the boot on an upper, rear portion of the boot;
 a second guide located on the same side as the first guide on a lower, front portion of the boot;
 a third guide located on the side opposite of the first guide on an upper, rear portion of the boot; and
 a cable portion that extends from the tension adjustment member to the first guide, the cable extends from the first guide to the second guide, and extends across the front of the boot from the second guide to the third guide, the cable portion extends from the third guide to the tension adjustment member.

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102. (Previously presented) A boot, comprising:
an upper rear ankle portion;
a lower front foot portion; and

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7 | a forward lean system, comprising:

cables from either side of the upper, rear ankle portion attached to the lower front foot portion, wherein forward portions of said cables are attached at only a single general position to the lower front foot portion.

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